

NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS

The Northern UFO Network (NUFON) is a communications network of groups who investigate and research the UFO phenomena in the north of England. The Northern UFO News is an open forum for their news, viewpoints and information. Any opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the groups as a whole.

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- ✓ BUFORA (Staffs): c/o Newchapel Observatory, Stoke, Staffordshire
- ✓ BUFORA (Yorks): 8 Central Park, Wellhead, Halifax HX1 2BT
- ✓ BYUIG: 27 Tennison Street, Bootle, Merseyside
- ✓ Cleveland UFO Research Group: 63 Thames Road, Redcar TS10 1PW
- ✓ D.I.G.A.P.: 24 Bent Fold Drive, Unsworth, Bury BL9 8NG
- ✓ Manchester UFO Research Assoc: 125 Berresford St., Manchester M14 4RY
- ✓ Midlands UFO Research Assoc: 48 Glebe Ave., Broughton, Northants
- ✓ NAPRA (Cheshire): 60 Tildsley Crescent, Weston Village, Runcorn
- ✓ R.I.G.A.P. (Rossendale): Five Ways, The Fields, Haslingden BB4 4DT
- ✓ Scunthorpe UFO Soc: 1 Angerstein Road, Scunthorpe DN17 2LZ
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NUFON would like to hear from any other
UFO society in the north

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CONTENTS

	page
EDITORIAL	2
NEWS AROUND THE NORTH	3
IN THE POST - UFO MAGAZINES ...	4
NAPRA REPORT : UFO LANDING AT RAINHILL	5
MUFORA REPORT : UFO OVER STRETFORD FIELD	7
"THE SONIC EFFECTS OF UFOs"-JENNY RANGLES	9
GROUP SIGHTING REPORT SUMMARIES ...	12

EDITORIAL

Well we have finally taken the big step, planned ever since NUFON began functioning. Our newsletter has become a fully fledged magazine and reaches out now to the wider audience of the general public. To those who are reading NORTHERN UFO NEWS for the first time might I say welcome. Let us hope that we can produce something of value and interest to you. To those UFO enthusiasts (or UFOLIGISTS as they are known) who have supported NUFON in the past I ask you to realise that it is up to YOU to make it such.

The aims of this magazine are simple enough. They are to bring to attention, as quickly as possible, the news of recent sightings of unexplained aerial phenomena seen in northern skies and of the activities of those groups of investigators who follow them through.

Each month we hope to include initial summaries of all cases under investigation. Since these take time to check out and since many eventually prove to have a natural explanation, limited space is devoted to these at first. However, with cooperation of the groups we also intend to feature detailed investigation reports on those cases which prove of express interest.

Apart from these important aspects of our format we shall also present articles of various aspects of UFOLOGY, written to be of interest and value to all who read these pages. We would also like to receive your letters on this magazine or on the subject in general. Do not be afraid to criticise, we want to give you what you want.

Jenny Randles

EDITOR.

News around the north.

JOINING A GROUP.

Some of you who read this will no doubt wish to become a member of a UFO group. The addresses of these will be included each month. Groups would be welcome for your help since they are always short of active investigators, to follow through the reports they receive. Most groups have regular meetings (details of which will be gladly supplied) and through NUFON they also have access to a tape library of lectures and discussions. Many groups also carry out research projects, details of which are published separately, through NUFON, on completion. Even if you do not wish to join a group bear the addresses in mind should you see anything and try to channel through to them any sighting reports which you hear of.

PUBLICITY WEEK.

This was a joint project initiated by the WIRRAL UFO society in which several NUFON groups cooperated. The idea was that during the week MAY3-MAY10 1975 groups should strive to attain as much publicity for the subject, of a respectable kind. Safeguards were used to prevent publicity of the spectacular kind, which does no good for the subject at all. In all at least five interviews on local radio were conducted. One group secured a one hour programme to itself and several feature articles appeared in the local press. It is to be hoped that this venture will be continued on a regular basis.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

These are published by NUFON for the groups to bring out the results of special research projects. The following are available in limited supply:

- 75/1 Comprehensive list of all UFO books, mags etc (prices and sources of availability) WUFOS 5p and post.
 - 75/2 Ufos and folklore in Lincolnshire (essay) plus analysis of 50 reports. SUFORS 10p and post
 - 75/3 Joint NUFON report 1970-74
 - Case studies, statistical analysis 20p and post
- PLEASE INCLUDE 7p ON ALL ORDERS

Cont.....

Cont

.... In the course of events is the preparation of the following reports. Orders may be made now. Available in August or September.

75/4 Sociological analysis of UFO reports WUFOS.

75/5 UFO Shapes & alien entities (pictorial) NAPRA.

SKY WATCH:

This annual event, coordinated by BUFORA took place on July 5/6. It was intended as a familiarisation exercise and NOT a UFO spotting spree. A full report will be featured next month.

IN THE POST.

In future issues we hope that we can print your letters with comments of interest on either the UFO phenomena as a whole or on the contents of this magazine. During the past month NUFON has received a good deal of interesting mail. There has been more liaison with Contact (UK) and in future there will be a good link up with data being passed through to them for inclusion in their publications. To further increase our cooperation on an international scale copies of this magazine are being sent to several of the more famous world wide Ufo organisations with a view to a more regular exchange of information. One such group, the Tasmanian UFO investigation Centre for Ufo studies (the body of professional scientists headed by Dr Alan Hynek in America), detailing developments on their 24 hour a day UFO phone number scheme, has come into our possession.

UFO MAGAZINES:

Many of you reading this will, I hope have found it of interest. You may want to read further into the subject and therefore I thought it a good idea to include a current list of some of the publications available to you. This is in no sense a comprehensive list but does feature the major national publications and all the northern group magazines.

National:

Flying Saucer REVIEW; PO BOX 25, Barnet, Herts. 6 issues £3.25 subscription. yearly.

The above is recognised as the world's leading publication and well worth looking at.

Both BUFORA & Contact UK (addresses at front of book) issue regular journals, BUFORA bi-monthly and Contact on a quarterly basis. These are available only to members of the respective groups.

Local:

THE following magazines/newsletters are produced by the groups shown (addresses at front of the book). Most require either a subscription or group membership but are excellent for local informatin.

NAPRA issue NAPRA JOURNAL at regular intervals (usually quarterly).

WUFOS issue SKYLINK bi-monthly (available to non members)

BYUIG intend to publish a newsletter called AD ASTRA shortly.

NAPRA REPORT:

UFO LANDING AT RAINHILL:

On May 18 1975 three witnesses were involved in the close observation of an unidentified object which appeared to land in a field. The following is an account of the investigation made to date by NAPRA (Northern Aerial Phenomena Research Association) and subsequent discoveries of possible physical traces.

The Location:

Rainhill is part of the Merseyside conurbation, situated to the east of Liverpool. It has new housing estates and open land. The exact location features a good deal of open ground with fields and farms.

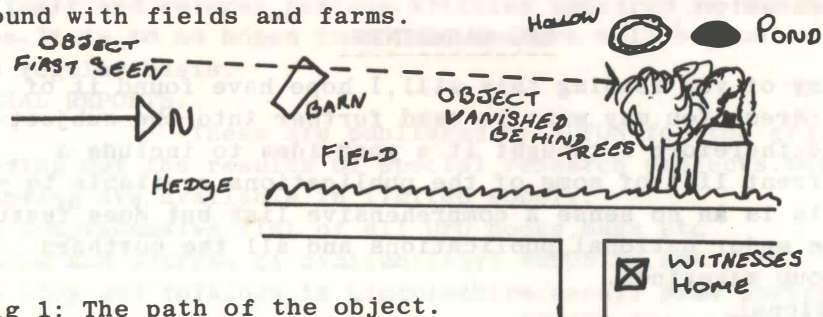


Fig 1: The path of the object.

The Report:

At approximately 10pm Mrs Scothern was looking out of her window over open land to the south east. She spotted the object moving north west and called to her

NAPRA REPORT cont

father and her husband who came across to look. The object was like three white balls in a triangular formation, one on top and two below, the apparent size of tennis balls. They were steadily pulsing.

The witnesses followed the course of the object for about a minute as it moved over a barn at a very low height and descended behind some trees where it was lost from sight. It was only about 100 yards away but no sound was heard. The speed seemed little more than 10-15 mph.

Mr Scothern ran out into the field but at first could see nothing. When he had progressed a little further he saw that a white glow was emanating steadily from a small hollow, surrounded by trees, at a point where the object had seemed to be heading. He ran back to call the others but when they returned a few moments later there was no sign of the light. Mrs Scothern, however, said she could hear a humming noise. After a time Mr Scothern heard it also but neither could pin point its location.

Mr Scothern's father brought out a torch and went towards the hollow but could see or hear nothing further.

INVESTIGATION:

The possible landing sight was examined the next morning and subsequently NAPRA returned several times to take photographs and samples. The actual area consisted of a small pond surrounded by a mud bank. Close scrutiny revealed four strange markings which appeared to be footprints. Apart from some tracks left by a dog there were no other marks in the wet mud.



FIG 2 The Object seen

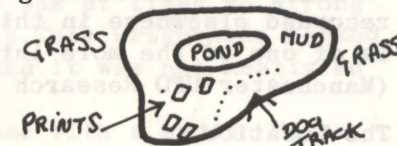


FIG 3 Diagram of the pond area

The prints were carefully measured and photographed. Their size was 13-14 inches by 6 inches and there was a stride length between them of 45 inches. Apart from these very large sizes the shape was of unusual appearance with a square toe, no instep and three faint lines running across the front. They were deeply imprinted suggesting very heavy pressure and the print furthest from the pond contained a duck stone which was scuffed as if it had been caught by metal.

INVESTIGATION: cont

No natural explanation for the lights has been forthcoming to date, such as aircraft or meteorological phenomena. The weather at the time of the sighting was calm, clear and just dark.

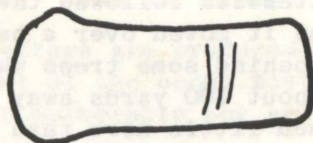


FIG 4 The Footprint.

CONCLUSION:

The stone has been sent for chemical analysis as have water and soil samples from the area. When results of these are forthcoming they will be published. Until that time it would appear that it is at least possible that the sighting of the unexplained object and the markings of unknown origin may be connected. It is of course conceivable that the markings were made in some other way, though there seems little evidence for this at the site. Obviously we look to the analyses to indicate if the area has been subjected to excess heat, radiation or anything which could link up with an unusual object grounding itself on the spot.

MUFORA REPORT: UFO OVER STRETFORD FIELD

On June 15 1975 the north was in the midst of a flap of sighting reports. Details of some of the others are recorded elsewhere in this issue, but the following account is of one of the more interesting reported to MUFORA (Manchester UFO Research Association).

The Location:

Stretford is to the south west of central Manchester by just a couple of miles. It is a reasonably built up area but the exact location of this sighting, whilst being residential, does give views over a certain amount of open space. The latter part of the observation was over towards a railway line running through fields.

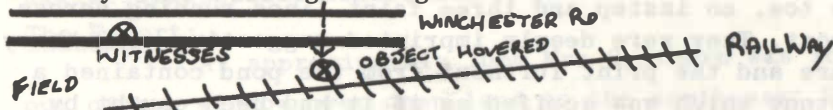


FIG I Area of the Observation.

MUFORA REPORT cont.

The report:

The chief witnesses in this case are two girls, aged twenty and twenty one. Both are quite intelligent and good observers. At 10-40pm on the night in question Miss Garner was about to leave Miss Doyle's house and walk to her own home which is close by. The two girls were standing on winchester Rd.

Miss Garner noticed the object first and pointed it out to her friend. It appeared as a fast moving white light seen through trees. at first it was considered to be just a shooting star but then it slowed down to a speed similar to an aircraft and then even slower. It was moving south west towards Altrincham.

Both girls were now puzzled and moved down the road to get a better vantage point. The object had temporarily disappeared behind houses and when it reappeared it was apparently much closer and the size of a fivepenny piece held at arms length. It was brilliant white in colour and their description was of a 'spikey' ping pong ball.

The light had come very low down and was no higher than 200 feet. It was hovering over a field and remained absolutely still for between two and three minutes. An unknown woman passing in the street was called over to watch the object and she too was puzzled by it.

As it was stationary they were able to get a closer view and it was noticed that there was a triangular shape on top. The spikey appearance was almost certainly an optical effect due to its brightness, which was at times so strong that it lit up the surrounding area. This brightness seemed to diminish as the speed reduced and it was not nearly so bright when it was hovering.

The climax to the sighting came with a sudden flash from the underside of the object, which brightened immediately and shot straight upwards into cloud at a height of about 1500 feet. The cloud was lit up as it passed through and bright flashes were visible in the area for some moments after. Just as it had vanished a commercial aircraft, heading for Manchester Airport, passed directly over where the object had been.



Fig 2: The object.

MUFORA report cont:

The investigation.

After the obvious possibilities had been eliminated by MUFORA the question was examined as to whether thunderstorm activity on that night could account for this sighting. There is an unusual electrical phenomenon known as ball-lightning which often displays characteristics similar to those described and efforts were made to look into this.

A spokesman for the meteorological office told that thunderstorm activity did develop at the time of observation (which is known to be reasonably accurate) the developing storm was some twenty miles away. He felt it most unlikely that this sighting could be attributable to any unusual discharge. None had been reported to the centre, and if it occurred they usually heard about it.

The final word from the met men was the suggestion that the object was simply distant lightning reflected off an aircraft. It was not explained how such an aircraft hovered over a field and then shot straight up into a cloud at phenomenal speed!

CONCLUSION.

On present evidence the most sensible classification for this report is unidentified. The fact that both witnesses developed headaches immediately afterwards MAY be significant.

THE SONIC EFFECTS OF UFOs: Jenny Randles

The consideration of this question really has two aspects. One is sounds which are reported in relation to UFO manifestations. The other is those which, unexpectedly perhaps, are not. I am thinking specifically here of sonic booms.

I do not propose to delve into this latter aspect except to say that the occurrence of bangs or explosions are unknown with respect to UFO sightings, though this does not mean to say that UFOs do not sometimes appear to travel at speeds above that of sound without any evidence of a shock wave (which causes the sonic boom).

By far the majority of UFO reports contain descriptions similar to the following: "I heard no sound at all" or "The object was totally silent". When sounds are recorded

The sonic effects of UFOs cont

there seems a distinct preference for whirrs or humms, often quite faint. Typical recent examples of this are given below.

On November 24 1974⁽¹⁾ at Haslingden, Rossendale, there was a spectacular multiple witness sighting of a procession of cigar shaped objects. Most witnesses heard no sound at all but two did report a "faint humming noise". On January 5th 1975⁽²⁾ at Upermill, near Oldham, a further sighting described a sound as "a hum like a generator". There is even evidence for this in the possible landing case reported elsewhere in this issue. The cases sighted all have a low-probability of being a natural phenomenon and this pattern is repeated so often in UFO reports of high value that we are forced to conclude that the is a function of the UFO-whatever that may be. We should otherwise have to surmise that so many people unacquainted with the finer points of ufology, consistently hearing the same type of sound.

Let us now consider how the sound is related to the UFO. There seem to be three possibilities.

- 1) That the sound occurs with certain UFO types and not others.
- 2) That the sound occurs with certain types of motion or activity.
- 3) That the sound is independent of both and is a function of all UFOs.

The first possibility can be dealt with most simply. In the cases cited the UFOs reported were of different type (cigar, disc and globular). There are enough examples on record of similar shapes being seen under approximately the same conditions and being reported as completely silent to make this theory seem untenable.

A similar consideration of UFO motions or activities has not so far revealed anything of consistency. The Upper Mill object did have a rotating rim, but then so did many other 'silent' UFOs. The Haslingden sound may have been associated with two objects merging together, but there are so few cases like this on record that it seems of little relevance to the current problem. If there is a connection between activity and sound it seems a most elusive one.

It would seem likely, therefore, that it is the third possibility that we must examine most carefully. If the hum or whirr is a standard feature of the UFO phenomena why is it heard in only 5% of all cases? (though this figure rises to probably 10-15% when only 'unexplained' cases are considered) (3). I think the answer to this lies in the faintness of the sound. Almost never is it described as loud, often as low or faint. Consider the following case from Norwich in 1972 when a disc shaped object was seen by highly respected witnesses (including a local government official) (4).

The sighting lasted ten minutes and the object was 'silent' except for a brief spell when it moved downwind and a 'low hum' was then heard. I would postulate therefore that the hum is a function of the propulsion system of the UFO (be it a craft or be it not). However it is generally so faint that it requires either exceptional hearing or favourable weather conditions to detect it. There are numerous cases on record where one witness heard the sound and others did not which may indicate a sound out of the normal hearing range. Note also the often reported disturbances to animals, as in the Haslingden case, who just happen to be more sensitive to such noise. A coincidence?

This is all simple enough, but what of other reported sounds such as roars and engine noises. They are less common and I suspect many are due to misidentifying normal craft of mundane origin. They do, however, seem to relate to specific aspects of UFO activity; an ascending motion and a trail or exhaust. (5). It would seem a reasonable assumption would be that the roars and exhausts are functions of an initial impulse required to set the UFO in motion. Only brief application is needed before the semi-silent power unit takes over. This tends to argue against an anti-gravity type of propulsion and in favour of one which requires the UFO be in motion before it can work. Hopefully physicists may elaborate but it could involve motion within an electromagnetic field generating power.

So much for theory, what of practical research. Hopefully NUFON will receive some constructive

suggestions but it would seem sensible that some type of oscillator be available to record the frequency of the sound, and perhaps a decibel reading taken. There would be large experimental error due to memory lapses by the witnesses, but at least it would produce some scientific results.

REFERENCES: 1) NUFON REPORT 1970-74
2) CONTACT (UK) Journal Summer 1975
3) NUFON REPORT 1970-74
4) BUFORA Report (to be published in BUFORA Journal)
5) NUFON REPORT 1970-74 (several examples)

GROUP SIGHTING REPORT SUMMARIES: :

From the Past:

1960 Date unknown Liverpool ✓ NAPRA REPORT

A cable maker reported a huge white cigar shape of size similar to a house. He observed it through a window moving West to East against a starry background. It was in view for five minutes moving at an estimated speed of only 10 mph.

June 1966 St Helens ✓ NAPRA REPORT

At 2pm on a sunny afternoon with scattered cloud a worker reported seeing a disc shape about the size of a dustbin lid. It was reflective silver in colour with a yellowish tint and moved south to north very slowly. It was in view for five minutes following an erratic path up and down and in and out of cloud banks. It disappeared into one large cloud and failed to reappear at the other side.

Current Reports:

June 14 1975 Rochdale ✓ DIGAP REPORT

Three highly respectable witnesses are involved in this case. What is more they were openly sceptical of the subject before their observation. The craft described is a typical saucer shape with a domed top. It was seen moving slowly across the skyline at 10pm and was in view for twenty minutes. Finally it banked, tilted at an angle and sped away at tremendous speed.

It is to be hoped DIGAP will shortly supply the completed investigation on this report.

June 16 1975 Merseyside ✓ WUFOS & BYUIG
REPORT

There are several sightings on record for this day. Glowing balls were apparently seen by many witnesses over the city both in daylight and at night. Full reports awaited.

June 17 1975 Scunthorpe ✓ SUFORS REPORT

At 00.30am a couple in Holton-Le-Clay, near Scunthorpe saw a flame coloured triangular shape hovering in the sky over Binbrook. It seemed to be growing brighter and a plane approached the area and apparently flew 'through' the spot where the object was. The flame colour then disappeared. The local RAF denied that any aircraft were in the vicinity and suggested a meteorological explanation. SUFORS are investigating.

June 29 1975 Rawtenstall ✓ RIGAP REPORT

Two witnesses at this town in the Rossendale valley were out at 11-30pm when two ball shaped objects, white in colour appeared. They accelerated away very fast and turned green in colour as they did so.

Staffordshire Flap: REPORT FROM BUFORA (Staffs)

If you look at the sighting reports on page 11, plus the case from Stretford, page 7, you will note that they are concentrated in a narrow period of time. This event is known as a 'flap' and is significant in proving the reality of a genuine phenomena. There was only a minimal amount of local publicity on most of the reports and no way that the spate of sightings over such a broad area could be sparked off by psychological causes. There had to be an external cause. This is even further shown by the sudden flare up of sightings in the Staffordshire area at the same time.

The first reports come from June 17, but perhaps the most spectacular occurrence was on June 18 at about 5.30pm. Several independent and reliable people reported almost as they were seeing it an object like

an upturned cornet (see description of Stretford object on page 7). It was below cloud at about 1500 feet and was rocking to and fro. As it hovered over the skies above the Keel area a Phantom Jet aircraft appeared. It prescribed decreasing circles around the object which then just vanished. The jet left the scene. After initial denials the local RAF admitted to the presence of the aircraft but would not say what it was doing. Investigation proceeding.

Several other reports came in but the local group feel many were misinterpretations caused by the upsurge of public interest as the press and radio covered the earlier reports in depth. However, on June 25 at 9am there was a further sighting which was seen by a large number of people. Indeed witnesses are still coming forward. This was of a silver coloured object, the size of an aircraft, moving in and out of a vapour trail (left by an aircraft which had previously passed over). It then remained stationary for a time, descended and moved slowly off to the north.

All reports are being fully investigated by the local group who will hopefully supply a detailed analysis when possible.

Name
Address